

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] Referring to Fig. 3, an example cloning process is shown. A ~~client 1~~ client1 301 computer system is configured to represent [[the]] a desired clone system. It comprises a characteristic machine type/model (TX1) 305, a desired operating system (OS) 302, optional applications 303, desired drivers 306 and desired configuration information 304. The image of ~~client 1~~ client1 301 is then captured and stored as Image2 image1 318 in a server 316 storage area. The ~~Server~~ server 316 holds N images. ~~Client 2~~ A client2 307 is to be built. Since the machine type is TB2, desired image2 is deemed appropriate, so it is loaded into the client2 307 via a network connection 321 or CD. Thus, ~~client 2~~ client2 307 becomes a clone of client1 301. The server 316 may support cloning of other computers 312, each one having to select the appropriate image stored in the server 316.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] The present invention comprises a cloning process where specific drivers for the operating system and specific system type/model being cloned are transferred to the cloned system at build time and ~~include~~ includes access to the predetermined drivers required to deploy that system. A clone (replica) image of a computer system of the desired type and model is captured, ~~and~~ components to be added later are removed from the captured image (the clone image). The image is saved at a server. When a client is introduced that needs to be configured, the clone image corresponding to the new client hardware characteristics is loaded into the client. In a preferred embodiment, the clone image that is to be loaded into the client has no driver software included. This makes the clone image much smaller. An install program comprising an interrogation program detects attributes of the client (or target) system. The install program creates a component list comprising information about attached devices, configuration information such as amount of memory, and machine type and model number. The component list is sent to the build server ~~which~~ that reviews the component list in conjunction with a set of predetermined rules. The build server assembles the required components~~,~~ including device drivers~~[,]~~ and component programs~~,~~ and transmits them to the target computer system. Only the needed drivers or programs are loaded to the target (cloned) computer~~,~~ and the target computer is booted with the required drivers.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] In Fig. 2 an example Internet system is shown. A ~~user~~ user1 210 at ~~client1~~ client1 201 uses applications on his system. This ~~user~~ (~~user 1 210~~) User1 210 at ~~client1~~ client1 201 can interact with ~~clients 2-4 202-204~~ client2-client4 202-204 by way of a client server computer 206. Applications 112 may be provided by each ~~client~~ client1-client5 201-205 ~~and or~~ and/or the client server 206 or some remote server 208 by way of the network 207. The ~~user~~ user1 210 at ~~client1~~ client1 201 can interact with a remote ~~user~~ (~~user 5 211~~) user5 211 at ~~client5~~ client5 205 by way of the Internet 207.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] In a preferred embodiment of the present invention (reference Fig. 4), a cloning computer program is provided for creating a single replica (clone) computer system program image 401. A computer system 301 is prepared for a cloning operation. The preparation configures a computer system 301 that has required characteristics of target computer systems ~~to be that are to become~~ replicas. Target computer systems ~~307 312~~ 307 and 312 will be the recipients of the clone image 401. A set rules 402 for building the target computer 307 is also created that preferably contains identifiers identifying desired components such as device drivers for a predefined group of computer systems compatible with the characteristics required. The rules 402 preferably contain rules for sequencing the installation of components and prerequisites as well as component version appropriate for the combination of operating system and client support requirements. The set of rules 402 includes a first identifier of a first component. Each identifier may include a component name, the location of where to get the component, the parameters needed to assist a program in retrieving the component, a component version indicator and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] [[A]] The single clone image 401 of the prepared target desired computer system program of computer system 301 is created that includes an operating system and preferably has some or all of the initial components 306 303 303 and 306 deleted. The clone image 401 is transferred to a second computer system 307. Preferably, an interrogation program running at the second computer system 307 verifies that the interrogation program is the correct version by communicating with the build program 406 at the build server 316. The interrogation program further detects second system 307 attributes of the second computer system 307 including the type and model 325 and amount of installed memory of the second computer system 307. The interrogation program further detects devices attached to the second computer system 307.
[[()]]Programs that perform interrogation of attributes and devices when a system is "booted" (power up sequence) are called wizards in operating systems such as WINDOWS® 2000 from MICROSOFT CORP Microsoft Corporation. Such wizards are run on built computer systems and depend on functionality of devices having been previously installed. They[[,.]] further depend on having access to device drivers that have previously been loaded[[()]].

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] The components 403 needed to complete build [[403]] are sent to the second system 307. The first identifier in the component list is used to locate the first component and insert it into transferred clone image 401 on the second system 307.